

What is claimed is:

Sub 12  
1. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in donor blood or blood product from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal comprising contacting a sample of the donor blood or blood product with a set of  
5 binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen and binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, and determining binding of the set of binding agents to the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor blood or blood product and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in  
10 the donor blood or blood product.

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Sub 12  
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the donor blood or blood product from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria is transferred to the recipient mammal.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the donor blood or blood product is selected from the group consisting of whole blood, leukocytes, hematopoietic stem cells, platelets, red blood cells, plasma, and serum.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the binding agents that specifically bind to the Gram-negative bacterial antigen specifically bind to the lipopolysaccharide structure of the Gram-negative bacteria.

Sub 12  
20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the binding agents that specifically bind to the Gram-positive bacterial antigen specifically bind to the lipotechoic acid structure of the Gram-positive bacteria.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of binding agents is immobilized on a solid-phase support.

25 Sub A3  
7. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in donor blood or blood product from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal comprising contacting a sample of the donor blood or blood product with a set

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5 of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, and determining binding of the set of binding agents to the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor blood or blood product and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor blood or blood product

8. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in donor blood or blood product from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal comprising contacting a sample of the donor blood or blood product with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen, and determining binding of the set of binding agents to the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor blood or blood product and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor blood or blood product.

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15 9. A kit for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in donor blood or blood product from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal comprising a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen and binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, and a means for detecting binding of the set of binding agents to a sample of the donor blood or blood product, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor blood or blood product and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor blood or blood product.

25 10. The kit of claim 9, wherein the donor blood or blood product from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria is transferred to the recipient mammal.

11. The kit of claim 9, wherein the set of binding agents is immobilized on a solid-phase support.

12. A kit for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in donor blood or blood product from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal comprising a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, and a means  
5 for detecting binding of the set of binding agents to a sample of the donor blood or the donor blood product, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor blood or blood product and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor blood or blood product.

13. A kit for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in donor blood or blood product from a donor mammal for transfer to a  
10 recipient mammal comprising a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen, and a means for detecting binding of the set of binding agents to a sample of the donor blood or blood product, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative  
15 bacteria in the donor blood or blood product and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor blood or blood product.

14. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in a donor tissue from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal, wherein the donor tissue is stored in a fluid, comprising contacting a sample of the fluid with a set of binding  
20 agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen and binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, and determining binding of the set of binding agents to the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor tissue and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor tissue.

25 Sub 15 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the donor tissue determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria is transferred to the second mammal

Sub 16 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the donor tissue is selected from the group consisting of lung, heart, liver, skin, kidney, pancreas, spleen, and bone marrow.

17. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in a donor tissue from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal, wherein the donor tissue is stored in a fluid, comprising contacting a sample of fluid with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, and determining binding of the set of binding agents to the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor tissue and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor tissue.

18. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in a donor tissue from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal, wherein the donor tissue is stored in a fluid, comprising contacting a sample of the fluid with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen, and determining binding of the set of binding agents to the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor tissue and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor tissue.

19. A kit for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in a donor tissue from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal, wherein the donor tissue is stored in a fluid, comprising a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen and binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, and a means for detecting binding of the set of binding agents to a sample of the fluid, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor tissue and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor tissue.

20. The kit of claim 19, wherein the donor tissue determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria is transferred to a recipient mammal.

21. A kit for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in a donor tissue from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal, wherein the donor tissue is stored in a fluid, comprising a set of binding agents, wherein the set

of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, and a means for detecting binding of the set of binding agents to a sample of the fluid, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor tissue and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor tissue.

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22. A kit for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in a donor tissue from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal, wherein the donor tissue is stored in a fluid, comprising a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen, and a means for detecting binding of the set of binding agents to a sample of the fluid, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor tissue and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor tissue.

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